

In The Claims:

1. - 2. Cancelled.

3. (previously presented) A retainer for a ball bearing formed in a generally annular shape and having a plurality of pockets arranged in a circumferential direction to rollably hold a plurality of balls along a pitch circle, respectively; the pockets each having an opening on outer and inner sides in the radial direction of the retainer; the balls having a diameter and a rolling surface; the pockets each having an inner peripheral surface comprising a radially inner section which is located inward of the pitch circle of the balls in the radial direction of the retainer and a radially outer section which is located outward of the pitch circle of the balls in the radial direction of the retainer, the inner surface having a cylindrical surface which has an inner diameter being larger than the diameter of the balls at least on the radially inner section, and the radially outer section has a spherical concave surface or a pair of protruding pieces on an end section thereof, such that the gap between the radially inner section of the inner peripheral surface of the pockets and the rolling surface of the balls gradually increases toward the opening of the pockets on the inner side in the radial direction of the retainer, and that the maximum inscribing circle with respect to the opening of the pockets on the outer side in the radial direction of the retainer has a diameter smaller than the diameter of the balls;

wherein the retainer is of the crown-shape, and comprises an annular main portion and a plurality of elastic pieces provided on one side in the axial direction of the annular main portion to define a pocket between a pair of the circumferentially adjacent ones of the resilient pieces, such that the main portion and elastic pieces define an inner peripheral surface which is formed in a partial conical concave shape that is inclined such that the diameter of the inner peripheral surface closer to the tip ends of the resilient pieces is larger than the diameter of the inner peripheral surface closer to the other side in the axial direction of the annular main portion.

4. Cancelled

5. (previously presented) A rolling bearing comprising an inner race having an outer peripheral surface formed with an inner-race track and a seal groove formed in the outer peripheral surface at an axial end thereof, the seal groove having a wall surface and a bottom, an outer race having an inner peripheral surface formed with an outer-race track and a seal groove formed at an axial end thereof, such that a space is formed between the outer peripheral surface of the inner race and the inner peripheral surface of the outer race, a plurality of rolling elements rollably provided between the inner-race track and the outer-race track in the space, and a seal plate formed in a generally annular shape, comprising an elastic member and a core metal for reinforcing, and having an outer peripheral edge fitted in the seal groove generally in the inner peripheral surface of the outer race, an inner peripheral edge defined by the end edge of the elastic member in sliding contact with the wall surface of the seal groove in the outer peripheral surface, and a dust seal lip located on the outside of the inner peripheral edge and facing the outer peripheral surface of the inner race, the end edge of the elastic member comprising an inclined side surface opposing the wall surface of the seal groove, an inner peripheral surface located radially inward of the inclined side surface and opposing the bottom of the seal groove, and a continuation portion for continuously connecting the inclined side surface with the inner peripheral surface of the end edge, the continuation portion being in sliding contact with the wall surface of the seal groove, the angle between the wall surface of the seal groove and the inclined side surface of the end edge being in a range from 30 degrees to 40 degrees in the state where the continuation portion is in contact with the wall surface, the bottom of the seal groove being in parallel to the inner peripheral surface of the seal groove or being inclined relative to the inner peripheral surface of the end edge such that the gap between the bottom of the seal groove and the inner peripheral surface of the end edge increases toward the axially outer end of the inner race, and the angle between the bottom of the seal groove and the inner peripheral surface of the end edge being in a range from 0 degrees to 30 degrees.

6. (original) The rolling bearing of Claim 5, wherein the continuation portion is formed in a curved surface of an arc shape in cross section.

7.-11. Cancelled.